

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS****Matt Disston, President****Mike Safranski, Vice President****Jim Haselton, Director****Glenn Acosta, Director****Ed Mandich, Director****GENERAL MANAGER****Don Chadd**

# ON TAP

**Volume 16 Issue 3****March 2010**

## What Does Local Rain Mean to Southern Orange County

The recent rains did not change the long term projection of diminished water supply for southern California for the foreseeable future. Fortunately, the recent rains did help with reducing the overall demand for water used for irrigation purposes for a period of time, but not much more.

Remember, much of southern California depends on “imported water” for its water supply. This is true for all of south Orange County. Where do we obtain this imported water? It originates from two primary sources: the Colorado River, and the State Water Project.

California’s allocation or “take” of Colorado River water has been reduced in recent years. This “take” is impacted by three major factors. First, the amount of water received is greatly impacted by California’s ongoing population growth.

Secondly, as a member of the Colorado River Compact, California shares this resource with six other states. Each member has an individual right to a certain volume of water from the Colorado River. In the past, California had received additional allocation from these other states as it was unused. Due to their respective increasing population growths in recent years, they continue to utilize their full share. This leaves little, if any excess supply for California to use.

Finally, the Colorado River has been affected by the drought that has occurred in the states that feed the Colorado River. Less water has been supplied to the Colorado River from its

tributaries due to decreased snow packs in the Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado regions.

The State Water Project, which is water delivered to Southern California from Northern and Central California, has also been impacted by decreased snow packs and water that results from the melted snow.

Added to this issue is the “Delta Smelt” decision – a court decision that says pumping of water at certain locations in the State Water Project adversely affects the population of the Delta Smelt, that is a tiny little fish which is unable to stay away from the pump intakes.

The need to conserve water takes on more meaning as water agencies and municipalities receive information from Metropolitan Water District (MET), the large wholesaler water supplier and Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), the county intermediary water wholesaler, that water conservation resolutions and water allocation ordinances need to be in place for water districts and municipalities, if water supplies and reserves continue to be stretched thin.

However, on the good news front, the District has been able to operate for the better part of January and February, and perhaps well into March, using its local wells. These wells produce local water as a result of these seasonal rains which have occurred.

## YOUR WATER BILL

Please notice there are now two additional meter charges on this bill. After public notice in September of 2009, a public hearing was held in November of 2009 regarding the meter charges. The Board of Directors approved these meter charges in November of 2009 to be effective on January 1, 2010.

For information purposes, here are explanations concerning the meter charges:

**WR & ESF CHG** – This is an abbreviation on your bill due to the limitation of TCWD's billing system. This abbreviation stands for Water Reliability and Emergency Storage Fund. This is a meter charge to fund TCWD's well upgrade project, a percentage (4.598%) purchase in the Baker Regional Water Treatment Plant, and a domestic water storage reservoir and distribution improvements.

The actual meter charge amount was determined by the size of the meter at the customer's location and the demand the meter places on the water system capacity requirements of TCWD. The fee will last for 20 years.

**Pass Thru Chg** – This meter charge is similar to the meter charge that was placed in effect for 25 months several years ago. Again, the State diverted a portion of the ad valorem property taxes the District receives as part of its revenue structure. This time the State diverted \$96,000 in the fall of 2009.

The same methodology for the meter fee was used as in the WR&ESF. This meter charge will only last for 12 months.

Additional Information concerning the charges which appear on your monthly water bill can be found on the District's website:  
[www.tcwd.ca.gov](http://www.tcwd.ca.gov) / Customer Services /  
 Explanation Of Charges

## TCWD'S ON TAP

### Happy Retirement

The Board of Directors and Staff of TCWD wish a long time employee of the District a happy retirement. If any District Customers ever had any complex questions concerning their bill, tax rate, or development process, Sharon Smith was the in-house expert on these subjects (plus many more). After almost 25 years of service with the District, Ms. Smith retired in February. We wish the very best in her retirement.

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The Regular Board Meeting is held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District's office located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

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### BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ Adopted Resolution No. 2010-1122 appointing a District Secretary
- ◇ Adopted Resolution No. 2010-2010-1123 appointing a District Assistant Secretary
- ◇ Adopted Resolution No. 2010-1124 appointing a District Treasurer
- ◇ Received status update relating to water monitoring and water conservation
- ◇ Recognized previous Board President
- ◇ Recognized previous Board Secretary/Treasurer

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We welcome your comments, suggestions and questions. Please call or write Michael Perea, TCWD's *ON TAP*

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